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8 June 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Czechoslovakia: (Czechoslovak party leader, Novotny apparently is being forced by mounting popular ferment and pressures in the party to oust his colleague, Premier Viliam Siroky.)

(The stage seems to have been set for Siroky's ouster at a recent Slovak journalists' congress. In a speech published 3 June by the Slovak party daily, a leading Slovak journalist charged Siroky by name with being one of those who initiated the repressive policy followed by the party since 1950.)

Novotny apparently has reacted to party pressures which have been building up, particularly since April, for a meaningful de-Stalinization program. At the time Novotny undertook his purge of former Stalinists last April, he clearly hoped to keep it within very limited bounds, primarily to protect himself because he is as guilty of Stalinist crimes as his recent victims.)

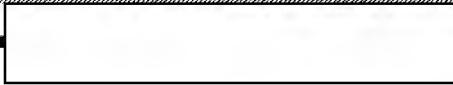
(A purge of Siroky, long one of the most powerful men in the party, is likely to be interpreted by the party and population as a concession and thereby encourage still greater pressures for liberalization.)

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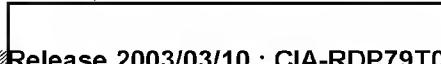


***Communist China - Pakistan:** Agreement for air service between Pakistan and Communist China has been reached by airline authorities of the two countries. Pakistan is to have landing rights at Canton and Shanghai, China at Karachi and Dacca.

Arrangements must still be approved by both governments. Although the Chinese have signed similar agreements with Burma and Ceylon and have negotiated with Laos, Cambodia, and Indonesia, only Communist airlines have so far flown into China.

Peiping probably hopes to sow dissension between Washington and Karachi and inflame bad feeling between Pakistan and India. The Pakistani Government probably sees the agreement mainly as another device to needle New Delhi and demonstrate Pakistan's irritation over Western military aid to India.

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North Vietnam: Severe drought has precluded fulfillment of the production plan for the early rice crop, according to a Hanoi announcement of 31 May.

Clearly apprehensive over the poor planting conditions for the more important autumn crop, the regime has ordered expanded efforts--including assistance from the armed forces and students--to carry out farm tasks in the drought-stricken areas.

The food situation has been tight in North Vietnam for three years and there is now little prospect of any significant improvement in 1963. Hanoi recently purchased 4,000 tons of wheat flour from Australia and expressed interest in further wheat purchases.

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USSR-Sweden: (Moscow has suggested and Stockholm has tentatively agreed to a good-will exchange visit between the Swedish and Soviet air forces sometime this year.)

(The Soviet visit--presumably by combat aircraft--will be the first by the Soviet air force outside the bloc. Several Soviet military officials have privately expressed "astonishment" at Moscow's participation in an exchange of this kind with a nonbloc country.)

(The Soviet gesture is probably aimed at improving Moscow's image in Scandinavia and at promoting Soviet-sponsored "peace moves" in that area, such as making the Baltic a "sea of peace" and creating a Scandinavian nuclear-free zone. The Swedes may hope that the exchange will assuage Soviet criticism of the greater number of exchanges between components of Sweden's defense establishment and those of Western countries.)

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Common Market - Austria: (Plans by the EEC's Executive Commission to push ahead with discussions on a close economic association with Austria may provoke strong Soviet intervention with Austria and risk possible failure of the project.)

(In a presentation on the Austrian question at the 31 May meeting of the EEC Council, a Commission spokesman ruled out as impractical either a simple trade agreement or a free trade area arrangement between Austria and the EEC, and opted instead for a "tight economic union." Only a minimum of exceptions would be made to enable Austria to meet its neutrality obligations.)

(Although the Council took no firm decision, and several of the EEC countries have deep reservations regarding the wisdom of pushing ahead so fast, the Commission believes it has authorization to conduct intensive exploratory talks with the Austrians. It is apparently eager to do so because of the relative impasse in the EEC on other matters and because it feels lengthy negotiations would fail.)

(The Soviet Union has consistently opposed Austria's association with the EEC on grounds that this would violate the Austrian State Treaty. Disclosure that Vienna is considering any arrangement such as envisaged by the Commission will almost certainly draw an extremely harsh reaction from Moscow, but there is no firm indication what the Soviets might do to block the deal.)

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Cyprus: (President Makarios has decided the Cyprus constitution must be revised even though any moves in this direction would bring him into open conflict with the Turkish Cypriots and the Turkish Government.)

(Greek Cypriot leaders have long been dissatisfied with the island's constitution. Makarios particularly dislikes the provision that permits intervention on the island by British, Greek, or Turkish forces, which he claims vitiates the island's independence.)

(Turkish Cypriots consider the present constitution a barrier to encroachment on their minority rights by the far larger Greek community. The current dispute over the role of each community in administering the major Cypriot towns is in essence a constitutional problem; the Turks feel that to abandon their insistence on maintaining their own administration would compromise the constitution itself.)

(Any move to revise the constitution--particularly the provision involving intervention by the "guarantor powers"--will be adamantly opposed by the Turkish Government.)

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*Argentina: (The Peronist-backed National and Popular Front has further complicated the Argentine political picture by officially naming Vicente Solano Lima, a minor politician, to be its presidential candidate.)

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Military leaders, suspecting that Solano Lima will turn out to be nothing more than a front man for Peron and Frondizi, plan to ask the electoral judges to declare him ineligible. Some observers believe that Peron, fearing that he would lose control of his followers if the Front elected its candidates, deliberately chose to back such a controversial figure in order to force the total proscription of Front candidates. It is doubtful, however, if the government will take such a drastic step at this time.)

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*British Guiana: (The US Consul General believes that relations between the Jagan government and the striking unions have deteriorated close to the point where only British intervention will maintain order.)

(After nearly seven weeks of strike and desultory negotiations, the deadlock between the two sides continues. Although there is some evidence that a large segment of the Trades Union Council leadership is thinking of coming to terms with Jagan, there are no indications that they can, at this late hour, carry the rank and file with them in any decision to end the strike.)

Clashes between East Indians and Negroes have been occurring with increasing frequency throughout the countryside since 30 May. This rising racial animosity, together with the prospects of hunger demonstrations, threatens to precipitate violence on a scale which will leave the British with no alternative but to move in and take control.

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NOTE

*Bolivia: The minister of mines is making a strong effort to bring about a speedy conclusion of the contract with Czechoslovakia for the construction of an antimony smelter. This week he put intense pressure on the directors of the Bolivian Mining Bank, who are reviewing the contract, to come up with a favorable report for submission to President Paz for final approval. Paz has heretofore been cool to the Czech offer, but popular sentiment in favor of the project is growing.

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